

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	15 October 2015
Subject: Education Strategy Update Report	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information

Summary

This report provides Members of the Education Board with a summary of key developments in the delivery of the City of London Corporation Education Strategy. Each of the five strategic objectives of the Education Strategy is addressed (paragraphs 3 – 7) with examples of recent work and future activities.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to: note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. The City of London Corporation Education Strategy 2013 – 2015 established five strategic objectives. Each objective is underpinned by a series of recommendations. Every recommendation identifies a key deliverable that the City Corporation is seeking to achieve and details specific actions that will facilitate this.

Current Position

2. The implementation of the Education Strategy is overseen by the Education Board. This report provides Members of the Education Board with a summary of key developments in the delivery of the Education Strategy. Each of the five strategic objectives of the Education Strategy is addressed (paragraphs 3 – 7) with examples of recent work and future activities.

Education Strategy Update

3. Strategic Objective 1: To promote and support excellent education and access to higher education
 - a) A Governor Training Programme has been developed for the new academic year (Appendix 1). Training will be made available to all Members who are governors.

- b) Roland Martin has taken up his position as the 10th Headmaster of City of London Freeman's School. Mr Martin was previously Headmaster at Rendcomb College in Gloucestershire, and a Housemaster and English teacher at Eton College, where he spent thirteen years.
- c) The Chairman of Policy has agreed to host a dinner for prefects from the City family of schools on 12 November 2015.
- d) The City Corporation will host a Careers Fair for students at the City family of schools on 19 April 2016.

4. Strategic Objective 2: To strive for excellence in the City schools

- a) Overall the City family of schools received excellent exam results this summer (a full report and analysis will be presented to the Education Board at its meeting on 15 October).
- b) At the October meeting of the Headteachers' Forum the Education Strategy Director will lead a discussion on 2015 results and targets for 2016.

5. Strategic Objective 3: To inspire children through an enriched education and outreach opportunities

The board will recall that it has approved funding for the Learning and Engagement forum to progress three strands of activity. A progress report on each strand is provided below:

- a) School Visits Fund – The Museum of London is managing the scheme and has appointed a part-time coordinator to administer the fund. A fund website is currently under development and a promotional postcard has been designed which will be mailed to all eligible schools (those with at least 30% of pupils eligible for Pupil Premium) in mid-October 2015. 19 City funded cultural venues are included in the scheme and schools will be able to apply for up to £300 to help cover the cost of visiting their chosen venue (provided they have not visited in the previous 3 years). For example, the fund can be used to help with the cost of coach hire, supply teachers, or session fees at the venues.
- b) "Hard Education" – Coda Consultants were commissioned to carry out research with secondary teachers and young people across London to identify the issues of most concern, and the best ways in which the City Corporation's cultural venues can support schools. Over 60 schools (representing every London borough) were consulted and 5 focus groups with young people were in out-of-school settings. The research was carried out throughout July and found a high demand for the kind of programme offered by the City Corporation, with 100% of teachers saying that they would be interested in workshops, performances, teacher training and online resources. Key issues identified include homophobia, sexism and substance abuse.

- c) Great Fire of London website – A specialist website research and development company, Webcredible, were commissioned to consult potential users of a new website and to make recommendations. Three focus groups were held, with general interest adults, specialists and teachers during July. Webcredible’s report concluded that there is a high level of interest in the subject, especially from teachers, and they recommended producing a site that draws on a selection of the fire-related collections in the City, in particular at the Museum of London and London Metropolitan Archives, to meet the needs and expectations of both general interest adults and schools. Their indicative costings suggest that this would cost at least £100,000 to produce.
6. Strategic Objective 4: To promote an effective transition from education to employment
- a) 103 placements have been undertaken by young people from the City’s neighbouring boroughs with 22 City businesses as part of the 2015 City Business Traineeship scheme.
 - b) Following the June apprenticeships roundtable at Mansion House for City (i.e. financial and professional services) businesses, discussions are underway with the National Apprenticeships Service to develop a programme of sector-focused events to raise awareness and increase take-up of apprenticeships in the City more widely.
 - c) Built Environment hosted a ‘Women in Engineering’ workshop for 40 female students from City of London Academy, Southwark. The session aimed to address male-dominance of STEM careers. 52% of participants said they would now consider a career in engineering, compared to less than 7% before the workshop.
 - d) 20 work experience students from all three of the City Corporation’s secondary academies were hosted across the City Corporation. 100% of students said they undertook meaningful work and 100% of hosts agreed that their student had developed skills that employers value.
7. Strategic Objective 5: To explore opportunities to expand the City’s education portfolio and influence on education throughout London
- a) Members will receive a specific update on the free school programme at the October meeting of the Education Board.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

- 8. The Education Strategy complements and supports the City Corporation’s corporate policies and objectives, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2013-2017.

Joshua Burton

Policy Officer

T: 020 7332 1432

E: joshua.burton@cityoflondon.gov.uk